UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
62nd meeting
held on
Friday, 7 July 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 62nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 122: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 117: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 120: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.62
10 August 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-81144 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 105: REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

1. Mrs. ARAGON (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that she wished to associate herself with the statement made at the previous meeting by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union expressing support for the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and its Chairman, Mr. Mselle. She also endorsed the comments made by the Chairman of the Fifth Committee on the matter.

2. Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) said that she, too, supported the statements made by France and the Chairman. The newspaper article in question had maligned both the work of the Organization and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

3. Mr. HANSON (Canada), supported by Mr. TOYA (Japan), proposed that the Chairman should officially convey the Committee's views to the editor of the newspaper in question.

4. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Committee wished him to take the action suggested by the representative of Canada.

5. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 122: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (continued) (A/49/540/Add.2 and 3, A/49/928)

6. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 981 (1995), 982 (1995) and 983 (1995) of 31 March 1995, the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/540/Add.2) covered the budget of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO), the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) and the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) headquarters for the three-month period from 1 April to 30 June 1995. Addendum 3 to the report covered the six-month period from 1 July to 31 December 1995. He recalled that, in its resolution 49/228, the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $134,731,500 gross for the three-month period from 1 April to 30 June 1995 in connection with the maintenance of the United Nations Protection Force. In the light of the decisions contained in the Security Council resolutions of 31 March 1995 to extend the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia for an additional period ending on 30 November 1995, urgent action by the Committee was needed to extend the Secretary-General's commitment authority to cover the period in question.

7. With regard to assessments for the period from 12 January 1992 to 30 June 1995, an amount of $862,595,475 was outstanding as at 14 June 1995. Three States Members accounted for 71 per cent of that amount. In connection with troop reimbursement, outstanding payments to Governments for the period from 1 March to 31 May 1995 amounted to approximately $125 million. There was

currently an unencumbered balance of $126,132,363 gross for the period ended 31 March 1994 and $79,996,000 gross for the period from 1 April to 30 September 1994. The amount for the period ended 31 March 1994 was due to the liquidation of obligations in the field accounts for premises and accommodation, transport operations and various types of equipment.

8. The cost estimates for the period from 1 April to 30 September 1994 amounted to $915,680,300 gross. In its report (A/48/961), the Advisory Committee had recommended the appropriation of an amount of $860 million gross and the Fifth Committee had decided to further reduce the amount to be appropriated to $850 million gross. Expenditures for the period from 1 April to 30 September 1994 were currently estimated at $770,004,000 gross, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $79,996,000 gross. That balance included $57,658,400 that had been rolled over to the following mandate period because procurement action could not be completed by 30 September 1994.

9. The cost of maintaining UNPROFOR for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995 was estimated at $409,253,000 gross, or $5,058,500 more than the commitment authority provided. The additional amount was due in part to the cost of the radio station that had to be reprogrammed from the previous mandate period.

10. In connection with the financing of the operations, at its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly would need to take decisions on utilization of the Special Account established by Assembly resolution 46/233 of 19 March 1992 for the recording of income and expenditure relating to UNPROFOR, UNCRO, UNPREDEP and UNPF headquarters; on the appropriation of the amount of $409,253,000 gross, inclusive of the amount of $404,194,500 gross authorized and assessed in accordance with paragraph 16 of Assembly resolution 49/228 from the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995; on the assessment of an additional amount of $5,058,500 gross for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995, to be offset against the unencumbered balance for the period ended 30 September 1994; and on the setting off against the future assessment on Member States of their share in the remaining unencumbered balance of $121,073,863 gross for the period ended 30 September 1994.

11. In Addendum 3 to the report, the Secretary-General further requested the General Assembly to appropriate and assess the amount of $862,953,300 gross for the operation of UNPROFOR, UNCRO, UNPREDEP and UNPF headquarters for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1995. Requests for increased commitment authority to reflect the expansion of troop strength would be included in a separate addendum to the report.

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the report of the Advisory Committee (A/49/928) was an interim one conveying a proposal which, if accepted by the Fifth Committee, would permit the Secretary-General to continue the operations of UNPROFOR pending detailed consideration of the reports to be submitted by the Advisory Committee in October 1995.

13. He noted that addendum 2 showed expenditure of $5,058,500 gross higher than the commitment authority provided for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995.

The Advisory Committee was not recommending any action in respect of that amount, pending further review of addendum 2.

14. The commitments and assessments authorized for the period from 1 April to 30 June 1995 were based on an average troop strength of roughly 41,000 contingent personnel, military observers and civilian police. Even though action had been taken to reduce the average troop strength in Croatia and addendum 3 had been prepared on the basis of an average troop strength of 36,262, the Advisory Committee had been informed that average strength was likely to remain at roughly 41,000 until 30 November 1995. The Advisory Committee was therefore recommending that the authority given by the General Assembly should be continued for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1995 and that an amount not exceeding $673.7 million gross should be appropriated and assessed for the maintenance of operations during that period.

15. The Advisory Committee had received an advance copy of the report containing proposals on the financing of the additional 12,500 troops for UNPROFOR authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 998 (1995) and hoped to be in a position to report thereon to the Fifth Committee the following week.

16. Mr. HANSON (Canada) said that he would welcome clarification of why the Advisory Committee was recommending the amount of $673.7 million gross for the continuation of operations for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1995. The appropriation and assessment requested by the Secretary-General should have yielded an amount of $690.3 million gross over a five-month period.

17. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the figure of $673.7 million corresponded to the amount of $134,731,500 gross per month authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/228. The Advisory Committee's recommendation had been arrived at after careful consideration of the previous budget, which had been based on an average troop strength of roughly 41,000. The Advisory Committee had not yet considered addendum 3 in detail and it would therefore have been difficult to use the monthly expenditure estimates proposed by the Secretary-General in that report. By recommending the lower amount, the Advisory Committee would also afford itself the opportunity to review the additional expenditure requested by the Secretary-General in excess of the monthly amount of $134,731,500 gross.

18. Mr. JU Kuilin (China) said that he was unaware of any decision by the Security Council on how to pay for the rapid reaction force of 12,500 additional troops and wondered whether it was not premature for the Committee to be considering the financing of that expenditure at the current stage.

19. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the cost estimates contained in addenda 2 and 3 were based on decisions which the Security Council had adopted prior to the decision contained in Council resolution 998 (1995). The troop strength of 36,200 had existed prior to that resolution and requests for additional appropriations to reflect the increased troop strength would be included in a separate addendum to the report.

20. Mr. JU Kuilin (China) said that it still was not clear to him whether a decision had been taken for the United Nations to finance the cost of the additional troop strength.

21. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that, in its resolution 998 (1995), the Security Council had decided to authorize an additional 12,500 troops for UNPROFOR, with the modalities of financing that expansion to be decided at a later stage. It was the responsibility of the Secretary-General to make proposals for financing to the Fifth Committee and it was for the Committee to take a decision on those proposals. The Secretary-General's proposals would be presented to the Committee the following week.

AGENDA ITEM 117: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued) (A/49/433/Add.1 and A/49/927)

22. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) established by Security Council resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995 was a much enlarged version of UNAVEM and UNAVEM II. For the six-month period of the Mission's mandate the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of $3.5 million per month beyond 9 February 1995, but that amount had proved insufficient and therefore the Secretary-General had approached the Advisory Committee with a request for $50 million gross to cover start-up costs. The report before the Committee contained a cost estimate for the period 9 February 1995 to 31 December 1995 in the amount of $305 million gross, of which non-recurrent costs accounted for $103 million and recurrent costs for $200 million. Divided into the current mandate period and beyond, the cost to the end of the mandate period would be $187 million and to the end of the year $117 million. The position of the UNAVEM III Special Account was very weak as a result of the sudden expansion of the Mission. Outstanding assessed contributions totalled only $7 million, and in order to meet operating cash requirements it had been necessary to borrow $15 million from the peace-keeping reserve fund. The proposed action to be taken by the General Assembly was outlined in paragraph 33 of the report, namely that $305 million should be appropriated for the period from February to December 1995, an additional $177 should be made available for the period from February to August, and should the Security Council extend the Mission's mandate beyond August, commitment authority of a monthly rate of $25 million should be requested.

23. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as stated in paragraph 7 of its report, the Advisory Committee had conducted a preliminary review of the Secretary-General's report for the reasons outlined in paragraph 6 of document A/49/927. The Advisory Committee's recommendation, as contained in paragraph 13 of its report, was that if the Security Council extended the Mission's mandate beyond August 1995, the Committee would recommend to the General Assembly that an initial amount of $215.7 million should be approved and assessed on Member States. Such an approach would allow the Advisory Committee to make a thorough review of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report in September.

24. The annex to the Advisory Committee's report showed in order of magnitude the amounts which the Committee had applied to the estimates to arrive at $215.7 million. It was important to note that the Advisory Committee was not reducing the estimates by $89.5 million; it merely wished to point out that by the time the Committee took up the Secretary-General's report in September, there was little likelihood that the Secretary-General would have committed $215.7 and would require the additional $89.5 million.

25. The recommendation was based on the Advisory Committee's past experience in reviewing peace-keeping budgets; experience also showed that time was required to initiate and implement procurement and recruitment. There had also been a slight adjustment in the schedule for the deployment of the military contingent. In addition, it had been brought to the Advisory Committee's notice that almost $20 million provided for mine clearing and humanitarian activities was a contingent provision and might be affected if and when additional extrabudgetary resources became available. The Advisory Committee intended to review the issue in September on the basis of additional information requested from the Secretary-General.

26. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was proposing that the Secretary-General should be given the usual flexibility in managing the authorized amount of $215.7 million. For example, if the Secretary-General found that he required additional funds in respect of civilian personnel or contractual services, he could use the flexibility available to him within the authorized limit of $215.7 million. In the event of difficulties, he should approach the Advisory Committee. The approach outlined in the Advisory Committee's report would give the Secretary-General the necessary financial authority to proceed while enabling the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly to review the estimates which the Secretary-General had submitted.

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued) (A/49/559/Add.1 and A/49/771/Add.1)

27. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that document A/49/559/Add.1 contained cost estimates for the operation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in respect of the period 1 December 1994 to 30 June 1995 and beyond. The Security Council had extended the political mandate of MINURSO to 30 September 1995. With regard to financing, General Assembly resolution 49/466 authorized the Secretary-General to enter into a commitment of $28.8 million gross from 1 December 1994 to 31 May 1995, with an additional commitment of $4.8 million gross to 30 June 1995. The most recent Security Council resolution regarding MINURSO adopted on 30 June did not affect the cost estimates currently before the Committee. The estimated cost of maintaining the Mission between 1 December 1994 and 30 June 1995 was $36.3 million, and beyond 30 June 1995 monthly maintenance costs would total $5.6 million gross.

28. The proposed action to be taken by the General Assembly was outlined in paragraph 30 of the report, namely that $33.6 million should be appropriated and assessed for the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 June 1995, and $16.7 million gross should be appropriated for the period from 1 July to 30 September 1995. If the Security Council extended the Mission's mandate beyond 30 September, the

Secretary-General would request authorization to enter into a commitment of $5.5 million per month. The position of the MINURSO Special Account was very weak and in order to meet operating cash requirements it had been necessary to borrow $12.9 million; outstanding contributions from Member States totalled $20.3 million.

29. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) referred to his introduction of the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of MINURSO which he had made at the 52nd meeting of the Fifth Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 120: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (continued) (A/C.5/49/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.56

30. Mr. BARIMANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking as coordinator of the informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.56, said that note had been taken of the status of contributions to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) as at 26 June 1995, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of $23,643,957, and that all Member States concerned had been urged to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions. The observations and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of the Mission had been endorsed, and it was duly noted that the unencumbered balances of appropriations for the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994 totalled $542,100 gross ($534,500 net).

31. It had been decided to appropriate to the Special Account the amount of $11,704,200 gross ($10,397,300 net) for the operation of the Mission for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1994, inclusive of the amount of $3,895,900 gross ($3,612,300 net) authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/243, the amount of $5,643,700 gross ($5,040,800 net) authorized in its decision 49/405 and the reduced amount of $2,164,600 gross ($1,774,200 net) authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under the terms of resolution 48/229 on unforseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995.

32. It had also been decided, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion an amount of $11,704,200 gross ($10,397,300 net) for the period from 1 June to 30 November 1994 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 and subsequent resolutions. In addition, the Special Account would be credited with the amount of $4,634,000 gross ($4,080,500 net) for the operation of the Mission in the period from 1 December 1994 to 30 April 1995. As an ad hoc arrangement, the amount of $4,634,000 gross ($4,040,500 net) would be apportioned for the same period among Member States in accordance with the scheme mentioned in General Assembly resolution 43/232 and subsequent resolutions, the scale of assessments for the year 1994 to be applied against a portion thereof, i.e. $951,351 gross ($837,718 net).

33. It had been decided to appropriate to the Special Account the amount of $113,300 gross ($95,400 net) for the liquidation of the Observer Mission for the

period from 1 to 31 May 1995. As an ad hoc arrangement, it had also been decided to apportion the amount of $113,300 gross ($95,400 net) for the same period among Member States in accordance with the scheme provided for in General Assembly resolution 43/232, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1995.

34. Member States' respective share in the unencumbered balances of $542,100 gross ($534,500 net) would be set off against the apportionment among them as provided for in General Assembly resolution 43/232 and subsequent resolutions in respect of the period from 1 December 1993 to 31 May 1994. The Secretary-General was requested to include in his report on the disposal of the assets of the Mission information on the proper accounting procedures for any transfer of equipment from peace-keeping operations to regular budget activities. It was also decided to include the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador" in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session. Since the resolution had emerged from informal consultations, he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

35. Ms. PERREAULT (United States of America) said that her delegation wished to receive confirmation from the Secretariat that the information requested in paragraph 16 of the draft resolution would be submitted in an addendum to the Secretary-General's report on the disposal of the Mission's assets.

36. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that the report had already been issued and that the wishes of the United States delegation had been noted.

37. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.56 was adopted.

38. Ms. BUERGO (Cuba) said that her delegation had joined the consensus. Nevertheless she trusted that the General Assembly would receive full information from the Secretariat so that it could consider the appropriations for political offices in the context of the proposed programme budget for the next biennium with maximum transparency.

AGENDA ITEM 130: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (continued) (A/49/375/Add.3; A/C.5/49/L.59)

39. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the financial performance report for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for the period 5 April to 9 December 1994 (A/49/375/Add.3), said that the report indicated an unencumbered balance of $17,329,200 gross. The Secretary-General had indicated that the expenditures shown in document A/49/375/Add.3 reflected the most recent information available, although the interim accounts for United Nations peace-keeping operations showed expenditure of $135,577,000 in respect of UNAMIR as at 31 December 1994. It appeared that there was a problem in terms of timely recording by the Secretariat of expenditure information received from the field, so that the interim accounts had not in fact reflected all obligations raised as at 31 December 1994. ACABQ trusted that such problems would be rectified with the use of new technology.

40. The interim accounts also indicated an unliquidated obligation of $95,555,000, although it should be recalled that not all obligated amounts were in fact ultimately disbursed. Current unliquidated obligations stood at $46.2 million, including an amount of $26 million for transport of contingent-owned equipment and reimbursement in respect of such equipment. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretariat would accurately verify the amounts obligated for those purposes. ACABQ and the Fifth Committee would review the question of the valuation of contingent-owned equipment and rates of reimbursement at the fiftieth session.

41. In such circumstances the Advisory Committee could not dispute the unencumbered balance indicated in document A/49/375/Add.3, and was thus recommending that an amount of $17,329,200 should be credited to States, unless the General Assembly were to decide otherwise on recommendation of the Fifth Committee.

42. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to take note of the oral comments of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda contained in document A/49/375/Add.3.

43. It was so decided.

Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.59

44. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.59, said that the draft resolution would have the General Assembly appropriate an amount of $143,417,100 gross ($141,461,900 net) for the operation of UNAMIR for the period 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995, inclusive of the commitment authority of $140 million gross already authorized by the General Assembly. The draft resolution would decide to apportion the additional amount of $83,417,100 gross ($82,919,600 net) for the period 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995, taking into account the amount of $60 million gross already apportioned. That amount would be prorated in accordance with the changes made to the scale of assessments.

45. The draft resolution would also have the Assembly decide to appropriate to the Special Account for UNAMIR a total amount of $109,951,900 gross ($107,584,300 net) for the period 10 June to 31 December 1995, and to apportion an amount of $99,628,200 gross ($97,508,000 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for that period, and further decide that the respective shares of Member States in the unencumbered balance would be set off against their apportionments.

46. Draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.59 was adopted.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

47. The CHAIRMAN said that he had received a letter from the President of the Staff Union requesting permission to make a statement in connection with the costs of staff representation activities, under agenda item 113. He would take it that the Committee wished to approve that request.

48. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at noon

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-NINTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
63rd meeting
held on
Tuesday, 11 July 1995
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 63rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TEIRLINCK (Belgium)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.67 concerning agenda item 34

United Nations telecommunications system

AGENDA ITEM 122: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of the publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.5/49/SR.63
28 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

95-81153 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/49/L.67 concerning agenda item 34 (A/C.5/49/69)

1. Mr. TAKASU (Controller) said that document A/C.5/49/69 described the expenses already incurred in connection with the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) and the estimated costs of extending the mandate of MICIVIH to 7 February 1996. Expenditure since the beginning of 1994 was estimated at $11,966,800, while extending the Mission's mandate to the end of December 1995 would require an additional amount of approximately $11,483,700. The total amount required for 1994-1995 was therefore $23,450,500. Since the General Assembly had already appropriated $3,987,100 for the biennium, an additional appropriation of $19,463,400 was required. For the period from April 1994 to March 1995, the General Assembly had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into additional commitments of not more than $15,692,000. Therefore, the total amount approved by the General Assembly thus far was $19,679,100.

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had reviewed the Secretary-General's statement concerning draft resolution A/49/L.67 on extending the mandate of United Nations participation in MICIVIH until 7 February 1996.

3. In reply to its inquiries concerning the Secretary-General's proposal that the staff should be reduced from 442 to 396, the Advisory Committee had been informed that administrative support for MICIVIH would be provided by the administrative structure of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). During its visit to Haiti in May 1995, the Advisory Committee had observed the newly developed approach to providing integrated service support to both military and civilian staff of UNMIH and MICIVIH, which seemed to be working satisfactorily.

4. Paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's statement indicated that the General Assembly had authorized a total of $19,679,100 for the biennium 1994-1995, comprising $3,987,100 in appropriations and $15,692,000 in additional authorized commitments. The Advisory Committee had been informed that estimated expenditure in 1994 had been lower than the total amount authorized because the Mission had been expelled from Haiti by the country's de facto authorities in July 1994 and had not resumed its activities until the end of October 1994. In addition, Mission personnel had been evacuated for security reasons in October 1993 and had not returned to Haiti until January 1994.

5. The Secretary-General estimated the total requirements for 1994-1995 at $23,450,500, which was approximately $3.7 million more than the amount already authorized by the General Assembly. Bearing in mind the existing appropriation and commitment authority, and in the light of expenditure trends for the balance of the year, the Advisory Committee felt that there was no immediate need to appropriate additional resources for the Mission. Accordingly, it recommended that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that the adoption of draft resolution A/49/L.67 would bring the estimated costs for 1994-1995 to a

deployment of an additional 8,500 troops between July and December 1995 and of 4,000 stand-by troops during two of those six months.

12. The total cost estimate of about $297 million was significantly lower than the estimate provided by the Secretary-General in his letter of 9 June 1995 to the President of the Security Council (S/1995/470/Add.1) because it assumed that the stand-by force would be deployed for two months instead of six and that the additional forces would number 8,500 instead of 12,500; in addition, it reflected the voluntary contributions formally offered by Member States, which offset some $21.2 million of the budget.

13. In view of the position taken on the issue by some States members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General had concluded that a mixed formula consisting of both assessed and voluntary contributions would be the most acceptable and realistic way of financing the increase. Accordingly, he had proposed that the difference between the previously authorized troop strength and the average monthly deployment over the six-month period up to the end of December 1995, excluding the rapid reaction force, should be financed through assessed contributions of approximately $137 million, of which some $118 million pertained to the current mandate period ending 30 November 1995. The remaining costs of the rapid reaction force would be financed through voluntary contributions to a sub-account of the UNPROFOR Special Account.

14. In order to accommodate up to 12,500 additional troops, it was absolutely essential to make additional resources available to meet the operation's needs in terms of equipment, logistical support and administrative leadership. Moreover, the Security Council had decided to set up three separate but interlinked missions within UNPROFOR, which would create additional administrative complications, while the Secretary-General had proposed that an Assistant Secretary-General should be placed in charge of the administration and management of the operation.

15. In sum, the General Assembly was being asked to take note of the overall level of resources required for the reinforcement of UNPROFOR, so that the Secretary-General could inform Member States of those estimated costs in appealing for voluntary contributions; to appropriate and assess the amount of $118,200,000 to accommodate the expansion for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1995; and to invite Member States to make voluntary contributions in cash and in kind to the sub-account of the UNPROFOR Special Account to meet the additional cost of $138,557,300.

16. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had serious concerns about the methodology used in preparing the proposed budget for the reinforcement of UNPROFOR and about the lack of information on firm and assured voluntary contributions and on contingency planning in case some of those contributions failed to materialize. The budget document was unusually complex and the Advisory Committee had already noted serious difficulties in relating the estimates to actual requirements.

17. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended that detailed consideration of the report contained in document A/49/540/Add.4 should be deferred until the

fiftieth session of the General Assembly. The Secretary-General should provide the Advisory Committee with updated information on the proposed budget no later than September 1995 so that it could report to the General Assembly by October.

18. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee recommended that the requirements relating to the increase in UNPROFOR personnel should be considered in the light of General Assembly resolution 49/233, part IV, paragraph 3, which required that decisions on commitment authority and assessment for the start-up or expansion of peace-keeping operations in an amount exceeding $50 million should be referred promptly to the General Assembly. In accordance with that resolution, the Advisory Committee recommended an amount of $100 million gross for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1995.

19. If the General Assembly accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Secretary-General should manage the commitment authority so as not to prejudice any of the decisions which the General Assembly might eventually take when it considered the budget estimates themselves. In that connection, the Advisory Committee intended to consider the request for the post of Assistant-Secretary-General for Management and Administration of the United Nations Peace Forces in the context of its consideration, at its next meeting in the autumn, of the update of the estimates contained in the Secretary-General's report.

20. Mr. LACLAUSTRA (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the financing proposed for the rapid reaction capacity was exceptional in that it was aimed at the immediate operational reinforcement of UNPROFOR, and that it should not, under any circumstances, constitute a precedent for the financing of other peace-keeping operations.

21. The European Union attached special importance to the principle of collective responsibility for financing the peace-keeping operations established by the competent bodies of the United Nations, as set forth in Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter.

22. The European Union took note of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning assessments and voluntary contributions. It supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on commitment authority and assessment in the amount of $100 million gross for the period from 1 July to 30 November 1995 and on the deferral of detailed consideration of the Secretary-General's report until the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

23. The European Union strongly supported the decision of three of its member States to provide military reinforcements for UNPROFOR. It attached the utmost political importance to the deployment of the rapid reaction force and to the provision of adequate resources to enable it to function effectively. All Member States of the United Nations should make every effort to supplement their assessed contributions with voluntary contributions in cash or in kind. He trusted that the Fifth Committee would adopt a resolution in support of the financing of the rapid reaction force.

24. Mr. TOYA (Japan) said that his delegation supported Security Council resolution 998 (1995) and appreciated the efforts of Member States which had supplied UNPROFOR with troops and equipment. However, it was uncomfortable with

the Secretary-General's proposal on financing arrangements. In his letter to the Security Council (S/1995/470/Add.1), the Secretary-General had recommended that the costs of the reinforcement of UNPROFOR should be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter. Japan therefore wondered why the Secretary-General had subsequently decided to recommend an unusual financing arrangement combining assessed and voluntary contributions. The reinforcement of UNPROFOR was a normal part of peace-keeping operations, to which all Member States were required to contribute. The proposed scheme would put a substantial part of the operation on an unstable financial basis and might worsen the financial situation of the United Nations. It could also undermine the ability of the rapid reaction force to carry out its mandate by making its strength and resources dependent on such a precarious arrangement. His delegation accepted the Advisory Committee's recommendation that, pending a more detailed consideration of the matter, the Secretary-General should be authorized to commit up to $100 million.

25. Mr. GJESDAL (Norway) expressed his delegation's support for the decision to deploy the rapid reaction force, which would provide immediate military reinforcement to UNPROFOR to reduce its vulnerability. The decision was also of great political importance. It was vital that the rapid reaction force should be given adequate resources to meet its operating expenses. His delegation endorsed the view of the European Union and Japan that the financing of peace-keeping operations was a collective responsibility that must be shared by all Member States and was therefore against voluntary financing of peace-keeping operations or elements thereof. His delegation would not oppose a consensus on the proposed method of financing for the first six months but stressed that it should not be considered a precedent for subsequent periods or other operations and should not lead to the development of a new, two-tier system for peace-keeping financing and to new financial difficulties for the Organization.

26. Mr. PASCHKE (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services), introducing the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the use of international contractual personnel (ICP) in UNPROFOR (A/49/914, annex), said that the approach adopted for UNPROFOR was a viable means of meeting the Organization's needs when it was not possible to recruit sufficient qualified support personnel for peace-keeping missions in a timely and cost-effectiveness manner through the traditional channels. However, the approach adopted for UNPROFOR should be viewed primarily as an alternative, to be resorted to only when circumstances clearly warranted, such as when sufficient personnel could not be made available from the existing staff of the United Nations system, or when releasing the large numbers of staff needed would adversely affect the performance of the source office; the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services raised a number of issues concerning the UNPROFOR pilot project and formulated recommendations for corrective action.

27. A thorough review of the management structure in the civilian component of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) had recently been completed, which had included a follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Office as a result of its audit of the ICP pilot project. While UNPF had taken corrective action in some areas, it had so far failed to act on a number of important recommendations. There was no evidence, for example, that any steps

had been taken to remedy deficiencies in the existing contractual arrangements with international service agencies or to replace international personnel with local recruits where appropriate. International contractual personnel represented 70 per cent of the international civilian component of UNPF. There was room for reduction in the overall staffing level of the mission but the reductions in the number of ICP posts should be over and above the posts identified as suitable for local recruitment.

28. Mr. GOKHALE (India) said that his delegation welcomed the observations contained in the report concerning procurement and the manner in which contractors had been chosen during the early phase of the pilot project. He called for immediate action to address the matter and requested follow-up reports, presented orally, if necessary on the compliance by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations with the relevant recommendations. As to whether the principle of geographical representation was relevant to the recruitment of contractual personnel, he recalled the principles enshrined in Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations. While supporting all efforts aimed at reform and at cutting back on expenditure and waste, his delegation hoped that those concerns would not undermine important principles on which the Organization was based. His delegation welcomed attempts to introduce a minimum salary level. The report merited a fuller discussion at the fiftieth session.

29. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the UNPROFOR pilot project (A/49/914).

30. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 119: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA (continued) (A/49/884 and A/49/937)

31. Mr. PASCHKE (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services) drew attention to two reports prepared by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/49/884 and A/49/937), dealing respectively with the audit and follow-up of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and the investigation of allegations of irregularities and mismanagement. The audit carried out in September and October 1994 covered mainly cash management, staff costs, procurement, transport, contingent-owned equipment and voluntary contributions of goods and services. The emphasis was on protection and utilization of assets, timeliness and cost-effectiveness of procurement and internal controls.

32. In February 1995, a special follow-up audit of MINURSO had been carried out in view of plans to expand the Mission and the need to strengthen the management and financial control systems. Certain allegations were under investigation and the results, which highlighted the need for better administrative support and strengthening of the day-to-day management of the identification process in MINURSO, had been reported.

33. Following submission of the audit report, the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations formulated additional comments in June 1995 (reflected in paragraphs 37, 41 and 44 of

document A/49/937) on three issues relating to aircraft requirements, adjustment of vehicle fleet and installation of electronic trip monitors in vehicles. It had since confirmed that it was continuing to review and revalidate aircraft requirements on an ongoing basis and no less than once per year and that the MINURSO vehicle establishment had been reviewed and adjusted. Further, the recommendation regarding the installation of electronic trip monitors to record vehicle speeds had been accepted for implementation action.

34. He reported that the MINURSO Administration and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations had been responsive to the audit recommendations and had, overall, taken prompt, remedial action.

35. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to recommend that the General Assembly should take note of the two reports in documents A/49/884 and A/49/937 and endorse the recommendations contained therein.

36. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 113: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (continued)

37. Mr. OUMMIH (President of the Headquarters Staff Committee and President of the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA)) said that under the Staff Regulations and the Staff Rules, staff representatives were mandated to perform representational activities and the Secretary-General was required to maintain contact with the staff on issues relating to staff welfare.

38. Staff rule 108.1 provided for the establishment of staff representative bodies at Headquarters and at various other duty stations. Furthermore, Administrative Instruction ST/AI/293 of 15 July 1982 specified that the functions of staff representatives were official, that staff representatives should be granted reasonable official time off to enable them to carry out their functions promptly and efficiently and to attend meetings of the Staff Council, and that each Staff Council, Staff Committee or corresponding representative body at designated duty stations should be provided with secretarial assistance, office space and communication and reproduction equipment.

39. The Staff Committee in New York represented over 2,000 members of the Secretariat deployed to three field missions in addition to the 7,500 staff members serving at Headquarters. Hence, the current full-time release of the President and two Vice-Presidents was by no means excessive. In addition, in his capacity as President of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations, he was required to deal with highly specialized issues relating to the International Civil Service Commission and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board.

40. The activity of staff representatives should be recognized as a positive contribution to the smooth working and efficient management of the Organization. With respect to posts for which they qualified, staff representatives should be considered on an equal footing with other staff members. They should be afforded job security so that they could carry out their functions without fear

of intimidation. Posts for staff representatives on full-time releases should remain blocked for the duration of their tenure in office.

41. At the recent Staff Management Coordination Committee meeting held in Amman, an agreement had been reached on the determination of reasonable time for releasing staff representatives and on procedures for dealing with the issue. Finally, full-time release for all heads of staff unions/staff associations, irrespective of the number of staff represented, was not only justified but mandatory.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

42. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) requested the Chairman to issue a correction to his earlier letter to The New York Times in which he had taken issue with remarks made about the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the work of that Committee. The United States delegation had understood that the purpose of the original letter was to communicate the views of those delegations which had spoken in support of the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the 61st and 62nd meetings of the Committee. Without entering into the substance of the matter, her Government believed that, on a procedural level, its position had been misrepresented since it had never mandated the Chairman to express support for the Chairman of the Advisory Committee in the name of the entire Fifth Committee. Her delegation had merely acquiesced in the sending of a letter containing the views of the delegations concerned.

43. The CHAIRMAN said he had been mandated to send the letter by the Committee as a whole, on the basis of a proposal put forward by the Canadian delegation. The United States had not raised any objection at the time, and if it disagreed with anything in the letter it should make its views known to The New York Times independently. If the United States had made a statement on the matter at an earlier date, he would certainly have included its views in the letter. But unless the Committee obliged him to comply with the request by the United States delegation, he was powerless to issue a correction.

44. Ms. SHENWICK (United States of America) said she was not asking the Chairman to write a letter on behalf of the United States Government; she merely wanted him to correct the erroneous statement that he had been mandated to write the letter by the Committee as a whole.

45. Mr. HANSON (Canada), supported by Mr. JU Kuilin (China), Mr. DJACTA (Algeria), Ms. BUERGO (Cuba), Ms. PEÑA (Mexico) and Mrs. ARAGO'I (Philippines), said that the Chairman had correctly stated the facts of the matter and expressed support for the position taken by the Chairman.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that the general view of the Committee was that he had received a mandate to proceed in the way that he had.

The meeting rose at noon.